

# Ignatian Approach to Anti-Racism

In Ignatian spirituality, we understand the *Magister* and *Magistra* as those who are entrusted with the responsibility of teaching in the world for those who do not know how to pray and discern God's ways. Since all truth comes from God, we should have the purpose to serve it in truth through academic study. Therefore, **learned ministry calls us to "faith seeking understanding"**, which is essential to being ministers who can faithfully lead God's people in a just engagement with the world.

At the Boston College School of Theology and Ministry, students face the real world and still have in the spiritual life of Ignatian spirituality a way to discern the truth of the world and the truth of the human condition.

At the same time, we are responsible for lifting up the voices of our tradition, particularly Black voices, and making them heard in the world. Ignatian spirituality is a tradition that has been shaped by the experiences of people of color and their struggles for justice and freedom.

How might it call us to integrate our academic study with the personal, pastoral, and spiritual dimensions of formation? How might our discernment of God's call for racial justice challenge the way we minister and work right now?

Imagination plays an important role in Ignatian spirituality, especially in contemplative reading of Scripture. We are called to be discerning and discerned with awareness and courage. Ignatian spirituality is a tradition that has been shaped by the experiences of people of color and their struggles for justice and freedom. We are not just reading about slavery, racism, etc., but encountering them. This style of prayer can be adapted and expanded, inviting faculty, staff, and students to place ourselves in the "story" of the BI+P community.

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## Discernment and Freedom

A distinctive characteristic of Ignatian education is the commitment to school the mind and the heart to see God in all things. This is a tradition that has been shaped by the experiences of people of color and their struggles for justice and freedom.

God's justice for which we are co-responsible. We must call to mind that racial justice is not *our* justice, but *the* justice of God.

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Discernment into and through disagreement leads us to a third, more perfect way. Freedom is mysterious. We must not lose faith in the Holy Spirit to guide our work and discussions, even when we disagree.

The CFM is an international community where students, men and women, lay and ordained, come together for formation in the Ignatian tradition to serve as learned ministers, scholars, and leaders in the church.

While appreciating the church's tradition, we must also be discerning and discerned with awareness and courage. Ignatian spirituality is a tradition that has been shaped by the experiences of people of color and their struggles for justice and freedom.

Presumption and Will. We have a ministerial responsibility to witness how the Church does racial justice; we should resist power that seeks to silence the voices of the marginalized.

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